



RUMSON

Borough Bulletin

SPRING
2008

Settled in 1665



St. George's-By-The-River, Lincoln Avenue, is celebrating the Centennial of its consecration in 1908. Donated in memory of William Everard Strong by his wife, Alice C. Strong, St. George's is Gothic Revival architecture reminiscent of village churches in England. The Church has been selected to be listed on The National Register of Historic Places and The New Jersey Register of Historic Places. Current Church Photos by David Hicks

ALL ABOUT RUMSON 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSECRATION ST. GEORGE'S BY THE RIVER

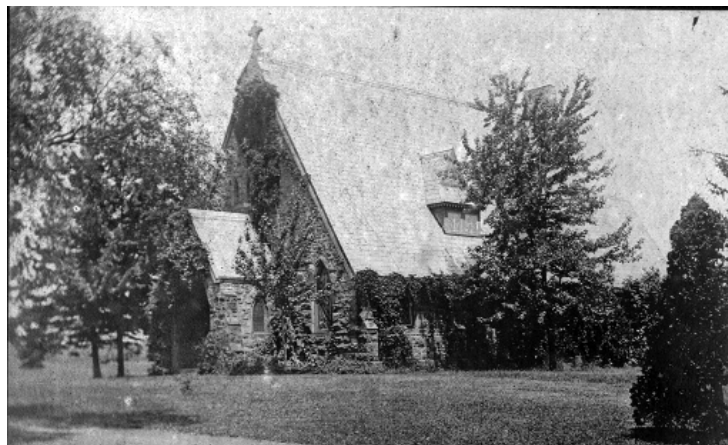
Throughout the past year, this space has been dedicated to chronicling the history of a grand old Rumson estate, The Point, which was located on 170 acres along the Shrewsbury River around Oyster Bay Drive and the southern terminus of Avenue of Two Rivers. Last year's winter issue started the saga in 1870 and told the story of the first homes in which the William Everard Strong family spent idyllic summers. The spring issue continued with the building of The Point, its landscaping and lifestyle of the Strong family. In the Fall issue, we followed the house as it was divided and moved to Avenue of Two Rivers and Waterman Avenue. This year, St. George's-by-the-River and the Rumson Country Club are celebrating centennials, and, coincidentally, The Point and the Strong family are connected to both entities. So, we continue the saga of William Everard and Alice C. Strong and learn how vital they were to the parish of St. George's-on-the-Hill and St. George's-by-the-River, which is currently directed by The Rev'd Ophelia Laughlin and located on the corner of Lincoln and Waterman Avenues. Last year, St. George's-by-the-River was selected to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the New Jersey Register of Historic Places. Rumson has only one other site included in the registries, The Seabright Lawn and Tennis Club.

When William Everard Strong arrived in Seabright and rented his first home, he did not find an Episcopal Church nearby. From around 1859, there were occasional church services held in a house on the Treadwell Estate conducted by The Rev. William T. Dunnell, Rector of the Holy Trinity Church in Red Bank, and sometimes Rev. W.B. Otis, the rector of the historic Christ's Church in Shrewsbury would hold services in private homes. After his marriage in 1873, Mr. Strong and other summer residents got together a group for worship services held in an unused school house on the E. Gay Hamilton property, which was later owned by Robert L. Crawford.

In July of 1873, Rev. Otis distributed a circular seeking donations for the establishment of St. George's Church. A meeting was held at Emery's Hotel in Seabright, and a committee led by Gustave Shiff and Edward W. Darrow was appointed to determine the location and to raise the construction funds. At that time, there was considerable debate about the location with some preferring a property on Ridge Road and some wanting to have the church built near Jumping Point and the Seabright Bridge, where the greatest concentration of residents and hotel visitors was located. Robert W. Hance and Borden Hance of the Hance Nurseries donated an acre of land near the homes of most of the original subscribers at what is now the corner of Bellevue Avenue and Ridge Road, and the decision was made to build the new church on that site. The parish of St. George's Church was organized on July 7, 1874 at the residence of E. Gay Hamilton with the consent of the Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey. William E. Strong was selected to be a vestryman.

On January 7, 1875, the cornerstone was laid for the Church on Rumson Hill, later known as St. George's-on-the Hill, and the first services were held during that summer, even though the church was not finished. The Rev'd. William S. Boardman became the Rector in the spring of 1876. According to church law, the church could not be consecrated until the mortgage debts were paid, and, during the summer of 1885, Alice C. Strong led the Ladies' Aid Society as they raised the entire sum through subscriptions, concerts and fairs. St. George's-on-the-Hill was consecrated on September 13, 1885. It didn't take long to become obvious that the choice of location benefited only those who lived in close proximity; the church was inaccessible to most parishioners. Public transportation didn't pass any-

where nearby, and few wanted to make the long walk in summer sun all of the way from Seabright along Rumson Road and up the hill to the church. Sparse attendance and a withering of support were evidence of the need to reconsider the issue of where this parish would be most effective. William Everard Strong died suddenly from pneumonia on May 14th, 1905, and this sad event is where the history of St. George's-by-the-River begins.



St George's on the Hill

A year after her husband's passing, Mrs. Alice C. Strong made plans to create a memorial that would keep her husband's memory alive into future generations. She wrote a letter to the Senior Warden, William A. Street, offering to build a new church "The need of one nearer Seabright having been recently so strongly urged." In Mr. Street's reply, he said, "The expectations of those who selected that site 33 years ago have not been realized. The greater density of population, and therefore the greater opportunity for good, is now to be found at the easterly end of the Rumson peninsula...All now welcome the opportunity, so generously provided, to place St. George's where it will be firmly and beautifully established in the midst of a populous and growing community that will sustain and extend the church in its mission of faith, hope and charity." Mrs. Strong's offer of the land and structure was unanimously accepted. She purchased the land for \$5,000 per acre from Mrs. Kellogg who had a house on the property and wanted to move it to Rumson Road but had difficulty finding a lot on which to place it. There was discussion of buying some property from Mrs. Strong, but it is not clear if that happened. When St. George's-on-the-Hill was no longer needed, Edward Dean Adams, owner of the adjoining estate of Rohallion and active member of the church, purchased the empty building and its two acres. For some time he stored hay in the building, and, in 1923, it was remodeled as part of the newly created Rumson Country Day School. The old church is easily distinguished on the corner of Ridge Road and Bellevue Avenue, and the lower level serves as the school's dining hall with a classroom space above.

Mrs. Strong hired A. Stewart Walker and Leon N. Gillette, whose architectural firm had recently gone into business in New York City, to design the new church; St. George's was one of the firm's first commissions. Walker and Gillette went on to great fame as designers of well known skyscrapers and the Electrical Products Building at the 1939 World's Fair. Mrs. Strong selected a style of architecture reminiscent of medieval English parish churches; it is known as "Early English Gothic of the Perpendicular type." Ground was broken, and the cornerstone was laid by The Right Rev. John Scarborough, Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Trenton and the Rev. J. Frederick Talcott on September 28, 1907. Swallows and Howes was contracted to build the limestone and granite structure, and it must have been exceptionally mild weather that enabled work to continue through

the winter and the church to be finished and ready to be consecrated, without any worries about mortgages, only nine months later on June 27, 1908. It is estimated that the cost of the building was around \$150,000. The church incorporates all of the defining elements expected to be found in a Gothic Revival style including its stone with stone buttress construction, steeply pitched slate roof, crenelated tower, Gothic-arched doors and stained glass windows with stone tracery and stone hood molds over outside doors and windows. The open-truss ceiling, plain plaster walls, brick floors inset with mosaics, linenfold paneling on the pew fronts and elaborately carved pew endcaps in the chancel along with the stone arch between the nave and chancel are all Gothic elements. St. George's completes the Gothic design with an authentic gargoyle looking down from above.



Treasures from the old church made their way to the new one. The old cornerstone and Celtic cross can be found in the garden of the Close, and the stained glass window donated by the Strongs in memory of their only son, Francis Lee Strong, is on the Chantry wall. A magnificent brass eagle motif lectern donated by Samuel J. Harriott to St. George's-on-the-Hill is still used at services from its integral position in the Chancel. The exquisite marble altar and ornamental reredos were copied from those in the Everard family memorial church in Great Waltham, Essex, England. They were commissioned to be created in Italy and donated by Mrs. Moreton F. Gage, the Strong's eldest daughter (Anne) who lived in England with her English husband and sons. The Strong's younger daughter, Miss Alice Everard Strong, gave the organ, and the cross and candlesticks for the altar were given by Mrs. Alice C. Strong. Her friends and church organizations gave the silver vases and plates, communion vessels and all accoutrements necessary for church services. The stained glass windows were given by church members and represented what the New York Times referred to as "examples of the best periods of decorated glass. J. & R. Lamb of New York have been particularly fortunate in the main west window, subject St. George. The entire light is filled with the figure of St. George, after the celebrated statue of Donatello....the window is an unusual example of cathedral glass. It combines the best quality of the old work with the freshness of modern treatment." The list of donors is a "Who's Who" of the era with names like William Frederick Havemeyer, Edward Dean and Frances Amelia Adams, E. Gay Hamilton, Ruth Adams Lobdell and the daughters of Seabury Treadwell (1779-1865) among those early parishioners who demonstrated their friendship for the Strongs and love of their church with generous gifts.

To create the finishing touches, Mrs. Strong hired Olmsted Brothers Landscape Architects, the firm begun by Frederick Law Olmsted, who was famous for designing Central Park and the landscapes of

America's most beautiful colleges, public buildings and grand estates. There began a series of correspondence that has survived and is now available in the Library of Congress to give us a glimpse of the personalities behind the history. Apparently, Mrs. Strong was somewhat difficult to deal with and most accustomed to getting things exactly as she wanted them. John Charles Olmsted, the son of Frederick Law Olmsted and a principal of the Firm, kept meticulous notes of his planning meetings with his clients. He arrived in Seabright by train in September of 1906 and was met by Mrs. Strong's electric automobile. She showed him the land that she had purchased for the church and gave him an idea of what she planned to build there in order for him to begin a planting plan. She wanted to take trees and plantings from her own property to use at the site and was adamant that the church should be covered by ivy, the plants of which could be transplanted from The Point. It didn't take long before tempers on both sides began to rise. The Olmsted firm created a plan that had a natural pattern of curved walkways around the new church, and Mrs. Strong telegraphed a demand for straight walks. In a reply dated June 11, 1908, the firm representative stated as politely as possible, "We are sorry to have to set aside even a portion of what seems to us the best treatment of the church grounds and to adopt a scheme of straight walks which seems to us so out of sympathy with the simple natural lines of approach to the entrances of the building. Any straight line system inevitably produces corners which are difficult to maintain because of short-cutting unless protected by curbing posts or some object of that sort. According, such a system is contrary to the natural flow of line that one would take in walking, and which we believe is most appropriate to St. George's Church...We wish to call particularly attention to the varying elevations about the church. In our original plan they would have given excuse for pleasing undulation, but now we fear they will be troublesome and produce an ill effect." There followed complaints about the designs for the planting beds, which the professionals had created as English cottage gardens. When evergreens were planted, she said that they "looked like every doorway along Madison and Fifth Avenues." She expected saplings to be in their full grown state and complained that one tree looked like "a buggy whip stuck upside down into the ground" rather than the specimen tree that she had expected. Before the job was finished, she nearly started a lawsuit against F.L. Byram, the Red Bank landscaper who had been hired to implement the Olmsted designs; she refused to release funds held for him in abeyance because she was displeased by his work. He was represented by John W. Ivins, and Mrs. Strong's lawyer was the Hon. Edmund Wilson, father of the famous critic. A compromise was reached awarding half of the funds to Mr. Byram, and neither side was happy about the result.

Once the church was consecrated, and all of the landscaping and window installations were completed, it became apparent that the congregation needed a parish hall and a rectory. In 1911, Edward D. Adams, the Junior Warden of the church, donated the parish hall in memory of his infant son, Ralph Lanier Adams. Ralph Hall became a center of parish life hosting rehearsals of the choir, and meetings of St. Mary's Guild, the Woman's Auxiliary and the Vestry. During the winter months when attendance was low, Ralph Hall was used for Sunday services to save on the cost of heating. The women of the parish under the leadership of Mrs. Fritz Achelis worked to raise the funds for the rectory which was completed in 1912. The Vestry minutes show a motion of appreciation and gratitude to Mrs. Achelis "for her untiring labor in securing the erection of the rectory and especially for her great generosity by which the rectory became the property of the parish without encumbrance."

By the spring of 1945, the Church School had grown from 25 children with 3 teachers to 150 children and 15 teachers. There was no space for classrooms, and Bertram H. Borden, who was elected to the Vestry in 1927 and spent the rest of his life on the Vestry and serving as Warden, brought forward the proposal that an addition was needed. Mr. Borden took responsibility for raising \$100,000, and the gracefully arched Cloisters with classrooms and meeting rooms was designed by Walker and Gillette and built to connect Ralph Hall, also expanded with a kitchen and dressing rooms for the Choir, with the Sanctuary. During his years at St. George's Mr. Borden donated items which have become integral parts of the life of St. George's. In 1933, he had a beautifully carved organ screen installed as improvements were being made to the organ. The following year he donated the Mary Owen Borden Memorial Carillon consisting of 25 bells which he purchased in England and had installed in the bell tower. He created a trust fund to provide for the care of the bells and for memorial recitals using them.

In the 1950's, there was a need for office space, and Canterbury Hall was designed by James C. Mackenzie of New York City and built to join Ralph Hall and the Rectory. The second floor held an apartment for the Curate. In 1955, the congregation had grown to the point of overflowing, and Bertram H. Borden, at that time 85 years old and nearing the end of his life, made an offer to The Rev'd Canon George A. Robertshaw that he would like to give a chapel in memory of his wife as an addition to the church. A wall of the church was removed and filled in with arches that opened into the expanded area, the Chantry, also designed by James C. Mackenzie. Behind the Chantry was created a small chapel, the Chapel of the Resurrection, intended as a place within the church where families could have the option to hold viewings of their recently departed loved ones. All of this was done by Rumson's philanthropist in memory of Mary Owen Borden, his beloved wife. The nave and entry area was added using funds from a bequest by Alexander and Maude A. Rieman. Following the passing of Bertram Borden, Rev'd Robertshaw told of the last gift given not long before Mr. Borden's passing, "Shortly after the dedication of the Chapel, Mr. Borden again came to me and asked for the privilege of paneling in oak the Vesting Room and the Sacristy, thus harmonizing with the oak paneling of the Ambulatory, which he gave in 1936." His foresight made the church large enough for the growing congregation, with enough classrooms for the Sunday School children and facilities for families, and he added exquisite embellishments that made the building unique and a joy to behold.

From its very beginning, St. George's-by-the-River has been fortunate to have benefactors who have donated the buildings and much of what is within. At the consecration in 1908, Bishop Scarborough said this in his eulogy of William Everard Strong,

"His loving, gentle nature commanded not only respect, but affection. He was one of the founders of St. George's Church and till the day of his death one of its most generous supporters. He was a pioneer in the opening of this beautiful region. He made his home here and attracted many others, until it has become one of the choicest spots in the State of New Jersey. I am speaking to some of those who knew him most intimately in his daily walk of life, and I am sure they will agree with me that no name is more worthy of honor than his, among those, living or dead, who have been identified with St. George's Church."

Mr. and Mrs. Strong led the way, and their philanthropic deeds were faithfully emulated by Edward Dean Adams, Mrs. Fritz Achelis, Bertram H. Borden and all of the other pillars of this community who donated generously to build St. George's-by-the-River into the large and active parish that it is today.

St. George's by the River will celebrate the Centennial of its Consecration at a special service on Sunday, June 29th at 10:00 AM. There will be two choirs, special music and visiting clergy. Bishop G.P. Mellick Belshaw will deliver the sermon at the service. Invited is the son of the Rev. H. Fairfield Butt II who served the Parish between 1941-46 as well as others who have touched the life of the Parish through the years. Strong family descendants have been invited and hope to attend. A fete will follow the service.

On June 1, Rev. Canon John G. B. Andrew will visit as part of the Centennial events. Father Andrew was a Curate at St. George's in the early 1960's before being called to England by the Archbishop of Canterbury to serve as his Chaplain. He returned to the United States and served as the Rector of St. Thomas Church on Fifth Avenue in New York City from 1972-1996.

RUMSON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Spring and Summer Safety Suggestions

- Keep doors and windows locked.
- Lock vehicles.
- Have good exterior lighting on your property.
- Be sure that child safety seats are protecting children. The

Rumson PD has two Officers certified to give child restraint safety inspections. Stop by Police Headquarters to schedule an appointment.

- Keep your homes safe. Rumson PD Crime Prevention Officers are available to perform a security survey of homes for Borough residents.

Traffic Safety

In the warm weather months, we have an increase in traffic coming through our Borough. Watch for pedestrians, bicyclists, joggers and children playing in the streets.

Rude Awakening-Prom Safety Program

The Rumson Police Department is working with the Fair Haven Police Department, the Rumson First Aid Squad, the Rumson PBA, Rumson Community Appeal and the high school to provide a safety program for RFHRHS students. All students who have expressed an interest in attending this year's prom are required to attend the day-long event being held in conjunction with other schools at Sandy Hook. This is a hands-on program which gives experiences that simulate driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. A DVD will be made available for larger viewing within the school.

Ptl. York Congratulated

Ptl. Chris York has been elected Vice President of the Monmouth County Bias Crimes Officers Association of the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office. The Rumson Police Department congratulates Ptl. York on being selected for this position.

Don't be a Litterbug!

After years of seeing our town in pristine condition, we are noticing an increase in litter along our roadways. Please do not toss papers, cups, wrappers, etc. out onto our streets. Save these items for the numerous trash baskets around town or take them home for disposal. We all should have enough pride in our beautiful community that we will do our part to keep it tidy. Please pick up litter that you find, and report litterbugs that you notice. Keep Rumson clean and green!

MESSAGE FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR

I would like to bring to your attention information regarding quarterly tax payments. Although taxes are due on the 1st day of February, May, August and November, the Mayor & Borough Council have resolved to waive interest on the payment of any installment of taxes if the payment is received by the 10th of the month of each respective tax quarter. This is what we refer to as the "Grace Period." Payments must be received in this office by 4:30 pm on the 10th day of the month in order to avoid interest being charged on your account. If payment is not received within the grace period, interest is then calculated from the date when the payment was originally due, until the date of actual receipt of the payment. Postmark dates are not an indication of receipt by this office. The postmark indicates when the post office received the envelope for mailing. Physical custody of your payment in this office determines receipt for our purposes. Additionally, if the 10th falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Borough Holiday, this deadline will be extended to the next business day.

If you cannot come in to our office during business hours: Monday – Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, we have for your convenience a "Night Drop" box located at the bottom of the stairs on the outside of our building. However, any payments left in this box are recorded on the next business day. If you put your payment in this box on the 10th, it will be posted to your account on the 11th and therefore considered late.

Please keep in mind that we are unable to accept postdated checks. We must be able to post the payment to your account and deposit it on the day it is received. Any postdated checks will be returned to you, which could cause a delinquency and interest accruing on your account.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 732-842-1170.

RUMSON FIRST AID SQUAD

The Rumson First Aid Squad is an all-volunteer organization, staffed by your friends and neighbors. We provide basic pre-hospital emergency care services at no cost to the patient, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. Over the past 3 years, we have averaged roughly 380 calls per year. During this time, we have responded to over 100 motor vehicle accidents, assisted the Police and Fire Departments with several missing child searches and provided stand-by first aid support to our volunteer fire department affiliates for 6 working structure fires.

We have recently printed up medical information cards which are now available for residents. These cards, which can be folded over to be about the size of a business card, contain many important pieces of information (medications, medical history, allergies, contact information, etc.) that are extremely useful in the case of an emergency. Residents can find these cards at Borough Hall, Rumson Market, Brennan's and the Oceanic Library.

We have also been very busy creating a past and present membership directory, complete with all of the founding members and dates that they joined the First Aid Squad. This project has already recorded almost 150 residents who have served as volunteers for the Rumson First Aid Squad. This is clear evidence of the small town nature of our volunteer operations with multiple family members participating. The Gaynor, Moss and Pomphrey families have all had four different family members participate on the First Aid Squad at one time or another, while the Campanella, Hoffman, Lagrotteria, Pauels, Shea and Trainor families all had three First Aid volunteers. The First Aid Squad presently has about 20 active members and is working hard to carry on the tradition of reliable services that these

families started; we are all grateful for their efforts. If you have any information that you think might be helpful to this research effort, please leave us a message at Borough Hall.

Finally, we would like to thank all of the residents and businesses in town that helped make our 2007 fund drive a success. Your generous donations are used to supplement our budget for training classes, medical supplies and new equipment purchases. We anticipate ordering a new ambulance in the very near future, as one of our ambulances is nearing the end of its useful life.

We are always looking for new members to join the First Aid Squad. If you are over the age of 18, please visit us at www.rumsonems.org, call us at 732-741-0474 and leave a message, or speak with any of our members.

RUMSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Rumson Fire Department was recently awarded a grant from the federal government to replace all of our self contained breathing apparatus, better known as air-packs. Most of our old air-packs were outdated and not very cost effective to repair. If not for the help from Lieutenant Paul Halligan and Firefighter Scott Servilla, who wrote the grant proposal, this could not have happened. They spent countless hours preparing it, and it paid off in a big way. They are to be commended for their efforts.

The Fire Department has acquired some new rescue equipment for certain emergencies. We have spent many hours training to become proficient on this equipment. We hope we never have to use any of it, but we are ready if residents should ever need us.

Remember, the Rumson Fire Department is a FULLY VOLUNTEER organization that saves taxpayers thousands of dollars a year. We rely on your donations to keep our fire stations operating and appreciate your generosity.

You can help us train! If you are considering demolishing a house in town, please let the Fire Chief know if you would like to donate it for training. We do not use live fire. We utilize "movie fog" produced by machines to simulate a smoke condition, which helps us to practice search and rescue techniques and ventilation. We will provide insurance to protect you from any liability. If you are interested in this program, please email the fire chief at: CHIEF4266IN2006@aol.com.

The Rumson Fire Department is always seeking new members. We will provide training free of charge for anyone interested.

A Message to Our Residents Regarding the Annual Sewer Fee

The Borough of Rumson is a customer of the Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority (TRWRA). Our sewage is pumped through a series of pipes and pump stations to the TRWRA Facility in Monmouth Beach for processing. The Borough is, however, responsible for the operation and maintenance of its sewer pipes and pump stations.

Over the past seven years, the charges to the Borough from TRWRA for sewage transportation and processing have increased in excess of 120%, a 12% compounded annual rate. In 2008, it is estimated that the Borough will be charged \$1.6 million by the Authority. This charge is determined by a complex set of calculations, ultimately based on the gallonage sent to the Monmouth Beach plant, and there is no ready appeal process.

Due to the escalating costs of transportation and treatment of sewage from TRWRA, the Mayor and Council have regrettably come to the conclusion that the Borough's annual sewer fee must be increased to \$400 per household, billed semi-annually. The new fee will cover approximately 75% of the actual cost to the Borough with the balance being paid via the operating budget. Please call Borough Hall (732-842-1170) if you have any questions about your sewer bill.

OCEANIC LIBRARY

Renovations to the Meeker Children's Room are now complete. Please stop by, and enjoy the new room! We have new lighting, a cozy window seat, a fairy tale castle with seating, a wishing well and new tables, chairs and cushions to sit on during our very popular Tuesday story hours. In addition, we have an aquarium that is the focal point of the room. Beyond all of that, we also have a new computer room adjacent to the main room with three computers exclusively for the use of children.



Maureen Oberdorf, Broeck Steadman and Lolly Ekdahl are in front of the colorful mural that Mr. Steadman painted as a gift to the library. He is holding a mini iPod which was given to him by the Meeker Children's Room Renovation Committee to thank him for his efforts. Photo by Lynne Ward

Our Summer Reading Program begins on June 17th. The theme this year is "Catch the Reading Bug." There will be a kickoff party that day at 3:30 pm featuring "Ugh to a Bug" followed by refreshments. Registration for all summer programs begins on June 17th. The reading program for the younger children and non-readers is called "Read to Me," and older children will be participating in the "Vacation Reading Club." Both programs end on August 12th with "Bugs and Things That Eat Them" followed by refreshments

Children's Programs: Every Tuesday

Baby Storytime Series: Ages 10 months-2 years
(with parent/caregiver) 10-10:20 am

Toddler Storytime Series: Ages 2-3
(with parent/caregiver) 10:30-10:50 am

Preschool Storytime Series: Ages 3-5 11-11:30 am

School Age Programs: Grades K and up 3:30-4:15 pm

Do you want to be a FOOL?

Raise your hand if you think that the Oceanic Library is a municipal library! Most residents are surprised to learn that the Oceanic Free Library is a private entity that relies substantially on donations to support its operation. Stop in to learn more about the history of this "village" library dedicated in 1920 to the memory of William Henry Meeker, a young resident of this town who lost his life in World War I. There is much to learn about our history, and we have a new organization devoted to sharing information and instilling a sense of community pride in our unique library.

We are excited to announce plans for the formation of FOOL, the Friends of the Oceanic Library. We hope to attract library lovers and supporters to help us work toward additional improvements and projects to enhance our library and its profile in the community. If you have seen the Meeker Children's Room, you know what can be done. We are eager to welcome members to this new group. If you are interested in becoming a FOOL, please call the Library.

We are happy to accept used books, but they must be in brand-new condition. Please do not leave any books outside where the weather can ruin them.

Library Hours:

Monday and Thursday 1:00 pm-7:00 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Saturday 10:00 am-2:00 pm*

*No Saturday hours from June 21-September 13.

Closed Memorial Day and Independence Day

Oceanic Free Library 732-842-2692

Book Club meets during the fourth week of the month. Please call the Library for details.

Knitting Group meets Friday afternoons at 2:00 pm. All levels are welcome.

RUMSON SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Like People, trees need preventive care

Early March definitely came in like a lion. Tremendous winds combined with the wet ground to wreak havoc on our landscape. In order to avoid future tree loss in your yard, please be aware that trees, like people, need preventive care in order to remain healthy and strong.

Every 3-5 years, have a professional tree service come and do appropriate pruning. More frequent pruning is necessary if there are damaged limbs that need to be removed. In all likelihood, there are many trees this spring in need of maintenance by homeowners (caregivers). By taking care of the trees in your yard now, you can prevent the more costly task of needing to have them taken down.

Trees add value to your home. In Rumson, we are fortunate that our town has been carved into the mixed Oak forest of the Inner Coastal Plain. These mature trees provide summer cooling, act as sound barriers and provide protection from the wind.

For more information on Inner Coastal Plain trees:

<http://www.njaudubon.org/Education/Oases/importance.html#Regions>

<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/njriparianforestbuffers/nativeINNER.htm>

Shade Tree Commission Reminders

There are free pamphlets in Borough Hall regarding tree values, mulching techniques, damage control etc.

NO MULCH VOLCANOS, PLEASE: Trees only require 2-4 inches of mulch, which should be placed away from the trunk. Excessive mulch smothers trees, and mulch placed against the trunk encourages insects and pests.

"If trees could scream, would we be so cavalier about cutting them down?" Jack Handey

Important Borough Notices

No Dogs Allowed In Borough Parks

For the safety of the children and residents of Rumson, the Borough does not allow dogs, on leash or off, in any of the Borough parks or on school properties. Thank you for your cooperation. In accordance with General Borough Ordinance 5-8.7 A

Borough Ordinance prohibits the use of advertising yard signs on private or public property.

Please call the Zoning Department before removing any trees to inquire whether a permit must be obtained.

RUMSON GARDEN CLUB

The Rumson Garden Club will hold its Annual Plant Sale on Saturday May 10th from 8am to 1 pm behind the Rumson Borough Hall. The event will be held rain or shine.

The Plant Sale will include over 400 perennials and plants grown by members of the RGC. This year the sale will also include troughs filled with miniature plants, annual and herb container gardens as well as unusual annuals from "Beds and Borders".

The RGC Plant Sale will be the ideal way to shop for Mother's Day. Arrangements of fresh cut flowers will also be available – the perfect and easy gift.

The RGC is involved in many civic projects including the design, planting and maintenance of the Rumson traffic islands, town park gardens and the Oceanic Library window boxes. The RGC has also sponsored the Wildlife Habitat at Deane-Porter School. The proceeds of the Plant Sale support all of the above as well as a scholarship which is awarded annually to a high school senior who is planning to study landscape design, horticulture or environmental science.

THE RUMSON FOX

Michele W. Lewis

This past Thanksgiving, November 22nd 2007, a police officer investigated a call about a fox roaming a residential neighborhood in Rumson. Fox are shy creatures and do not seek human contact but will seek food in populated areas when little is available otherwise. They normally prey upon birds, rodents and insects and will eat berries too. In this case the fox was attracted to bowls of milk and food set outside for a neighbor's cat.

A normal healthy fox weighs about the same as a housecat, just 10-15 pounds. This one was emaciated and injured, unable to hunt, in need of nourishment and medical care. His coat was sparse, he walked with a limp and his eyes were crusty.

That day and the next, residents contacted town officials as well as a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, Donna Fox, of Rocky Springs Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, Inc. in Warren County and expert wildlife trapper Bill Sleight of Long Branch. The plan was to utilize a Have-a-Heart trap to catch the fox and then transport it to the rehabilitator's facility for care. Rehabilitators care for sick, orphaned and injured wildlife with the purpose of returning them to their habitat. They are funded by private donations. In 2006 Rocky Springs successfully rehabilitated ten sick and injured fox.

The Rumson fox was never caught and transported to the refuge, which was awaiting its arrival. Saturday, November 24th, local law enforcement and the animal control officer were once again on the scene investigating a sighting of the fox; they had not been informed of the plan that was in place to assist the animal. When they found the fox, it was under the porch of a home and near to where many children lived. The fox had a terrible case of mange and had a broken leg, the result of having been hit by a car. It was in very bad condition, and the officers made the decision to end its life.

There is an alternative for Rumson citizens and town officials to consider the next time this situation arises. NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife offers resources to help wildlife and people peacefully cohabitate.

If you are experiencing wildlife nuisance problems, such as animals in or under housing structures, or damaging your property, call Wildlife Control Unit 908-735-8793. You will receive recommendations and deterrent methods for a humane outcome involving many species, fox, deer, raccoon, etc.

If you see a sick or injured wild animal, call Amy Wells at the NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife at 609-292-2966 or go to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/rehablst.htm> for a full list of licensed rehabilitators. Over the phone the rehabilitator will assess the situation and give instructions if any action needs to be taken. Ms. Wells stresses that people should leave wildlife alone unless the animal is in need of medical help; if it is a nuisance issue call Wildlife Control Unit 908-735-8793 for helpful recommendations.

Remember that wildlife can only be handled by those licensed by the Division of Fish and Wildlife and if caught must be released within 24 hours. Relocation is not allowed unless by permit from the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Thank you to Amy Wells of Division of Fish and Wildlife, Bill Sleight, and Donna Fox of Rocky Springs Wildlife Rehabilitation Center for the information used in this article.

RUMSON RUN MAY 4, 2008

The 16th Annual Rumson Run is set to go on Sunday, May 4, 2008 at the RFHRHS Borden Stadium. Events include the AJ Bruder Five Mile, The 3K Community Fun Run/Walk and Kiddie Dashes for children. Don't miss the races, the live performances by local bands and the post race party at Val's Tavern. This important event has raised more than \$300,000 in scholarship funds awarded to RFH students over the years

RUMSON RECREATION

Summer Hoops, Fall Soccer, Flag Football and various camp registration continues at the Borough Hall Mondays-Fridays 8:30am-4:30pm.

The Summer Hoops Basketball Teams program is for children who are currently in grades 3-8. This is a co-ed basketball program which will run from June 23 through July 25. Coaches will call with specific game times and dates. Games are played outdoors in the evenings at Victory Park. Registration deadline-June 6.

The Summer Hoops Basketball Clinic program is for children who are currently in grades 1-2. Children must have completed grade 1 or 2 by the end of June 2008. This is a co-ed basketball program, which will run from June 23 through July 25. All registered players should report to the Forrestdale outdoor basketball courts on June 23 at 6:00 PM. This program is scheduled to run on Monday evenings. Players will be assigned specific time slots when the program begins. Basketball clinic instruction is provided outdoors in the evenings at the Forrestdale School. Registration deadline-June 6.

The Fall Soccer program is for children enrolled in grades K-8 for the 2008-2009 school year. Kindergarten children participate in a Saturday morning clinic, which runs throughout the fall beginning September 6. Children should report at 9:00 AM to the Forrestdale School soccer field. Practices for grades 1-8 are during the week with games played on Saturdays. Registration deadline-June 6.

The Flag Football program is for children who are 5, 6, 7 & 8 years of age. (Children must be 5 years old prior to August 1, 2008.) The program will run clinics on August 19, 21, 26 & 28 at 6:00 PM-Riverside Park fields. Attendance is not mandatory, however, it is recommended that all players and coaches attend these clinics. Games are played on Saturday mornings from 8:00am-11:00am during September-November. Coaches will call with team assignments and game schedules. Registration deadline-June 6.

Summer Camps

US Premier Soccer Camp- July 7-11

MLS Soccer Camp- July 28-August 1

RFH Hoops Basketball Camp- July 7-11 & July 14-18

Bulldog Field Hockey Camp- July 21-25 & July 28-August 1

High School Field Hockey Camp- August 4-18

Crew-Learn to Row Camp-July 7-11 & July 21-25

Football-July 21-23 & July 28-30

Academy International Lacrosse Camp (girls)-July 14-18

Trilogy Lacrosse Camp (boys)-July 7-10

T-3 Lacrosse Camp (girls)-July 28-August 1 & August 11-14

Tennis-(weeks of) July 7, 14, 21 & 28

Golf-lessons by appointment throughout the summer

Camp Coordinators will have registration forms/brochures available in April/May 2008. Additional flyers will be available at the Rumson Borough Hall.

Soccer officials needed: Anyone 14 years old or older who would like to be a paid soccer official for the 2007 season should contact John Hird at 503-6607 or jhird@rumsonnj.gov.

RUMSON WOMEN'S CLUB

The Rumson Women's Club will be holding regular monthly meetings beginning at 7:30PM on May 12th and June 2nd at the Bingham Hall. At these meetings, current and future club events and membership details will be discussed. The club is involved in a tremendous amount of work in the local community. The participation of its members is crucial to the success of the club, and the events that are sponsored allow the club to donate to several charities throughout the year. Come join us at these meetings to see what you can do to help the community by becoming a member.

The 6th Annual Rumson Women's Club Gift Auction was held at the Church of the Nativity located at 180 Ridge Road in Fair Haven on April 11th. Gifts included an overnight in NYC with tickets for "Jersey Boys", a gift from Tiffany & Company, a flat screen TV, a dress from CoCo Pari, gift certificates from local restaurants and businesses and numerous gift baskets. We had signed cast pictures and scripts from "Law and Order", "NCIS", "Lost", "CSI", John Travolta and Clint Eastwood to name a few. We had tickets to "The People's Court", The Philadelphia Soul, NJ Nets, Lakewood Blue Claws and Trenton Thunder and much more.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 201

Troop 201 is hale, hearty, and full of energy! In February, the Troop welcomed nine new Boy Scouts, bringing the number of active Scouts to 46! Ranging from 5th grade to high school seniors, the boys continue to work together to achieve the high standards set forth by the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.

In March, the newest scouts completed their first campout at Alpine Scout Camp in north Jersey. Older scouts taught them ax handling skills and outdoor fire safety, as well as how to pitch their

tents and cook meals over an open fire. A little friendly cooking competition among patrols resulted in nice culinary surprises! The troop also practiced climbing and belaying skills at the camp's indoor and outdoor climbing walls.

Also in March, Senior Patrol Leader Ian Roberts became an Eagle Scout. The beneficiary of his project was Deep Cut Gardens in Middletown and its visitors. Ian led the scouts in clearing vegetation, leveling the land and building a brick patio to accommodate two benches which had been purchased in memory of loved ones. Next time you're at Deep Cut, relax on a bench at the Rockerie and enjoy a moment of peace and serenity courtesy of Ian and Troop 201.

April's campout focused on a combination of hiking and orienteering skills. The Troop hiked in Stokes National Forest and camped at Allamuchy Scout Reservation. Adult leaders set up an orienteering course to test the Scouts' ability to use a compass and a set of directions to find hidden items. If you're ever lost, forget GPS! Just ask a Troop 201 Boy Scout for directions!

In June, two crews from Troop 201 will travel to the 137,000-acre Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico for 10 days of rigorous backpacking. The Philmont experience combines activities reminiscent of the old west, horseback riding, burro packing and gold panning with exciting challenges for today such as mountain biking, rock climbing and rifle shooting. Although they've been training since October, Troop 201's crews participated in a Philmont "dress rehearsal" in April with all the crews from Monmouth Council. There they proved to have the skills and group coordination necessary to complete the Philmont trip safely. Sam Wilson, Avery and Myles Peterson, John Reynolds, Alex Barnett, AJ Mayro, and John Motley have promised to come back with exciting stories for the next issue of this Bulletin!

Turn off the video games and get involved in REAL excitement. Any boy who has completed fifth grade, is 11 years old, or who has earned the Arrow of Light is welcome to join Troop 201. Meetings are Wednesday nights from 7:30-9 pm in the Forrestdale School Cafeteria. For more information, call Jamie Roberts at 732-758-0454.



We Honor Those Who Serve Our Country

The Rumson men and women who are serving our country in the uniforms of the Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard are never far from our thoughts. As a new, ongoing feature, we would like to help the residents of our community keep up with those young people who are serving our country. This issue highlights several of our military service people, and we hope that families will let us know of others. Please contact us at the Rumson website: www.rumsonnj.gov or your editor directly at: avananda@comcast.net or stop in at Borough Hall to leave a message.

Corporal Brendan Duffy, USMC, served two tours of duty in Afghanistan and Iraq, where he served as a squad leader. He received an honorable discharge and is currently in the NCO Inactive Reserve.

Sergeant Morgan Kavanaugh, USMC, is serving his third deployment in Iraq. He is a member of a Military Intervention team serving as a Forward Observer. Prepared to train Iraqi troops, his location is unknown because of high security.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick George, US Navy, was deployed to the Cutter Annapolis and has been an ELT Nuclear Engineer for five years. He is currently an assistant to TAG Commander in Groton, CT.

Christian George, US Coast Guard, will be commissioned as an Ensign on May 21st. He is to be deployed to Cutter Dauntless

in July where he is scheduled to serve two years in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico.

Sergeant Matt Marks, USMC, has served to reinforce the Macedonian Embassy on his way into Kosovo. He was trained in the Royal Marines Commando Course in England and the Amphibious Reconnaissance School. He has served with the Fleet Anti-Terrorist Security Team (FAST) out of Norfolk, VA and is currently doing Reconnaissance and Sniper work.

Major (P) Lisa Jenny Hou, NJ Army National Guard Medical Corps, was deployed to Iraq in 2005 and was released from active Duty Army in 2006. Currently, she is the Officer in Charge of the Post-Deployment Health Reassessment Program, which is designed to guide returning soldiers to proper health care and keep them from "falling through the cracks." The medical unit is also screening every NJ Army National Guard soldier who will be deploying to Iraq this summer. So far, the unit has seen 3,000 soldiers in the past six months.

1st Lt. Jonathan Erwin, US Army, recently returned from a 15 month deployment to Iraq. He is based at Fort Bragg, NC.

To any of our Military personnel who see this, we send our pride and wishes for their safety and well-being during their tours of duty. The people in your home town are thinking of you and looking forward to welcoming you back soon.

Rumson Senior Citizens Club

Members were very proud to hear about the recognition of John Kondrup by our Mayor at the Borough Reorganization Meeting on January 1st.

John has served the Community since 1967 as a member of the First Aid Squad where he continues to volunteer and the Rumson Fire Department. He has been an active member of the Senior Citizens Club for fifteen years. He has served as Chaplain and can always be found setting up tables and chairs for every meeting. We are proud to have John and his wife as members.

On January 17th, members went to see "Barefoot In the Park" at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse and enjoyed a wonderful Irish show and dinner at the Brownstone Theatre in March. 2nd Vice President, Marge Bergman does a great job arranging our trips!

Once again, the Board of Education at RFH extended an invitation to all members to enjoy lunch and the Tower Players musical, "The Wiz". What a terrific and energetic show! The Seniors try very hard to be involved throughout the Community and to support whenever and wherever possible.

Applications are being accepted for the Annual Senior Citizens Award which is presented to a graduating senior at the June awards ceremony at the High School.

We are fortunate to have Dottie Burlew represent our Club at the Office on Aging. She keeps members updated on resources and scams. She informed members about the Monmouth County Library offering free assistance with Income Tax preparation. She explained why all Seniors should have an emergency kit on hand and what it should contain; also, she detailed the evacuation routes to the High School and Holy Cross School auditorium.

President, Vivian McCormick, is overseeing the Rumson Run again this year. She is very pleased with the number of members

who signed up to stuff bags on May 1st and to serve refreshments on May 4th.

On June 11th the Seniors will attend our Annual Spring Luncheon at Salt Creek. This event is being co-chaired by Margaret Reynolds and Peg Connor.

1st Vice President, Lillian Haines arranges all in-house socials, which are held during the second meeting of each month. In recent months, members have enjoyed presentations by FBI Agent, Tim Screen, John Callanan, an Elder Attorney, and Jodi Snyder, a representative from King James. Lillian also arranges Bingo games and "special holiday" events. Delicious refreshments are always served. She does an outstanding job, and members are grateful.

Rev. "Skip" Wilson was a friend to every Senior and members were truly sorry to hear about his loss. When the Club moved from the Fire House to the Church, "Skip" welcomed us with open arms. Condolences are extended to member, Jean Strohmenger and her family in the loss of her husband Bill and to the family of member Bill Matthews.

The Club meets bi-monthly at 11:00 a.m. in Wilson Hall at the Rumson Presbyterian Church on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. All Rumson seniors, 55 and over, their family members and friends are invited to join our fun filled group.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jeanne Cuje, Publicity Chairman

Schedule of Meetings: May 12, June 9

MAYOR

John E. Ekdahl

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Shaun P. Broderick

Joan P. DeVoe

Joseph K. Hemphill

Mark E. Rubin

Frank E. Shanley

ADMINISTRATION

Thomas S. Rogers, Municipal Clerk/Administrator

Roberta H. Van Anda, Editor

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RUMSON BOROUGH HALL

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DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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CALENDAR

MAY

- 1 Fourth Quarter Property Taxes Due
- 4 **Rumson Run**
- 5 Planning Board, 7:30 pm
- 7 Shade Tree Commission, 4pm
- 10 Rumson Garden Club Plant Sale, Borough Hall, 8am-1pm
- 12 Women's Club Installation Dinner
- 12 & 26 Senior Citizens Club, Presbyterian Church, 11am
- 13 & 27 Borough Council, 7:30 pm
- 20 Zoning Board, 7:30 pm
- 21 Recreation Commission, 7:30 pm
- 26 **MEMORIAL DAY: NO GARBAGE COLLECTION, BOROUGH HALL AND OCEANIC LIBRARY CLOSED**
- MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, 10 AM**
- 28 **Rumson Handicap at Monmouth Park**
- 28 Historical Commission, 7:00 pm

JUNE

- 2 Planning Board, 7:30
- Women's Club, Bingham Hall, 7:30 pm
- 9 Senior Citizens Club, Presbyterian Church, 11:00 am
- 10 & 24 Borough Council, 7:30 pm
- 14 Canterbury Fair, St. George's-by-the-River, 9:30am-2:30pm
- 17 Zoning Board, 7:30 pm
- 18 Recreation Commission, 7:30 pm
- 25 Historical Commission, 7:00 pm

JULY

- 2 Shade Tree Commission, 4 pm
- 4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY: NO GARBAGE COLLECTION, BOROUGH HALL AND OCEANIC LIBRARY CLOSED**
- 7 Planning Board, 7:30 pm
- 8 & 22 Borough Council, 7:30 pm
- 15 Zoning Board, 7:30 pm
- 23 Historical Commission, 7:00 pm

RUMSON BOROUGH BULLETIN

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